REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE

Voting Members:

Tommy Waters, Chair; Heidi Tsuneyoshi, Vice Chair; Carol Fukunaga, Joey Manahan, Ron Menor

Committee Meeting Held June 18, 2020

Honorable Ikaika Anderson Chair, City Council City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Public Safety and Welfare, which considered Resolution 20-65 entitled:

"RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY IN WAIKIKI, INCLUDING, IF NECESSARY, THE PREPARATION OF A RESOLUTION FOR THE COUNCIL TO INITIATE PROCEEDINGS IN EMINENT DOMAIN."

introduced on March 4, 2020, reports as follows:

The purpose of the Resolution is to request the City Administration to take the steps necessary to acquire a parcel of real property in Waikiki, including, if necessary, the preparation of a resolution for the Council to initiate proceedings in eminent domain.

Director Sandra Pfund from the Department of Land Management offered comments on the Resolution and indicated support for the condemnation of the parcel. Director Pfund related that the City offered a Letter of Interest to the owner of the parcel due to the poor condition of the building and the potential use of the parcel for affordable housing. The City and the owner, however, were unable to reach an agreement.

CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON JUL 8 2020

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Committee Vice Chair Tsuneyoshi inquired about the community's position on affordable housing on the parcel. Director Pfund indicated that the neighboring community has been disappointed for many years with the condition of the property, and concerns about trespassing, and vandalism. She indicated that the specific use for affordable housing may need additional community vetting.

Committee Chair Water inquired about the discussions between the City and the property owner. Director Pfund indicated that the City offered to pay for the appraisal, but during attempted negotiations it became clear that the owner was not interested in selling the property.

In response to Committee Vice Chair Tsuneyoshi's earlier questions, Committee Chair Waters further indicated that the Waikiki Neighborhood Board has also shared concerns about the parcel as well, and that the community is "fed up." Given the condition of the building and the nature of the activity occurring therein, it really has become a safety concern for the community.

Council Floor Leader Fukunaga indicated that communities across Oahu have similar issues with this owner and his properties.

Your Committee received no other oral or written testimony on the Resolution.

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Your Committee on Public Safety and Welfare is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 20-65 and recommends its adoption. (Ayes: Fukunaga, Menor, Tsuneyoshi, Waters - 4; Noes: None; Excused: Manahan - 1.)

Respectfully submitted,

Committee Chair

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